



# BOROUGH OF DEVIZES

## Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the Years 1945 and 1946

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Reports for the years 1945 and 1946 on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration for the Borough

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Public Health Department,  
St. John Street, Devizes.

G. H. H. WAYLEN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

				1945	1946
Area in acres	...	...	...	1391	1391
Population ...	...	...	...	7701	8347
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2111	2140
Rateable value	...	...	...	£45650	£46943
Product of 1d. rate	...	...	...	£182 4s. 1.27d.	£188 8s. 10.32d.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

				1945			1946		
Live Births.				M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	...	...	...	76	54	130	78	71	149
Legitimate	...	...	...	59	43	102	69	62	131
Illegitimate	...	...	...	17	11	28	9	9	18
Live Birth Rate.									
Borough	...	...	...	16.89			17.84		
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.1			19.1		
Still Births.									
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	—	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...			Nil	1	—	1
Death Rate.									
Borough	...	...	...	11.69			12.46		
England and Wales	...	...	...	11.4			11.5		
Deaths of Infants under One Year.									
All Infants	...	...	...	4	2	6	4	2	6
Legitimate Infants	...	...	...	—	1	1	2	1	3
Illegitimate Infants	...	...	...	4	1	5	2	1	3
Infantile Mortality Rate.									
Borough	...	...	...	46.15			40.27		
England and Wales	...	...	...	46.00			43.00		



## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	1945			1946				1945			1946		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
1. Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	2	3	5	3	1	4
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	21. Bronchitis ..	1	2	3	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	22. Pneumonia ..	1	1	2	1	5	6
4. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	23. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
5. Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	1	1	2	1	—	1
6. T.B. of Respiratory Organs ..	—	1	1	2	1	3	25. Diarrhoea under two years ..	2	1	3	2	—	2
7. Other Forms of T.B. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	26. Appendicitis ..	1	—	1	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	27. Other Digestive Diseases ..	—	2	2	1	1	2
9. Influenza ..	—	—	—	2	2	4	28. Nephritis ..	1	1	2	—	—	—
10. Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	29. Puer. and post abortion sepsis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acc. Polio Myelitis & Polio-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	30. Other Maternal causes ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
12. Acc. Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	31. Premature Birth ..	—	1	1	1	—	1
13. Cancer of Buc. cav. & Oesoph (M) & Uterus (F) ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	32. Con. Mal., Birth Inj., Dis. ..	2	—	1	3	1	4
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	33. Suicide ..	—	—	—	2	1	3
15. Cancer of Breast ..	—	2	2	—	2	2	34. Road Traffic Accidents ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites ..	9	3	12	3	2	5	35. Other Violent causes ..	—	1	1	2	—	2
17. Diabetes ..	—	2	2	—	1	1	36. All other causes ..	3	6	9	1	4	5
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions ..	3	10	13	11	14	25							
19. Heart Disease ..	10	14	24	11	19	30	Total for all causes	38	52	90	47	57	104

Above Table calls for no comment. The causes of death are such as to be expected in a rural area with ageing population. The numbers involved are far too small for yearly variations to be significant.

## GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

*Medical Officer of Health:* G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., (Cantab.)

*Sanitary Inspector:* Mr. N. J. Arney left the Council's service on the 30th April, 1945, and the Council were without a Sanitary Inspector until Mr. G. Price Lawrence returned from H.M. Forces on the 1st February, 1946, but Mr. Lawrence left again on the 28th February, 1946, and the Council were again without an officer. Ultimately the Council appointed Mr. J. H. M. Jolliffe, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.Inst.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., M.R.I.P.H.H., on the 15th September, 1946, he commencing his duties on the 1st November and was the Sanitary Inspector at the 31st December, 1946.

**Ambulance Service.**

Carried on by a Joint Ambulance Committee of Devizes Borough and Rural District.

**Nursing in the Home.**

The Devizes Nursing Society continued to provide a nurse whose work among the aged and infirm is most useful. Nearly 100 cases were treated annually and in 1946 the number of visits increased to well over 2,000.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Clinics for Orthopædic, Tuberculosis and Venereal (Female) cases held at Devizes and District Hospital as before. An Ophthalmic and Infant Welfare Clinic held elsewhere. All under the auspices of the Wiltshire County Council Health Department.

**Maternity Services.**

Of an average of 140 births during the last two years, less than half were attended in their homes by the County Midwifery Service and over one half confined in Hospitals and Nursing Homes. A private nursing home, "Ivy House", with seven beds and a maximum yearly intake of 150 is the only Institution available in your area. Should it suddenly close down, as may well happen,



the situation here would be very serious. Housing conditions today compel many expectant mothers to seek institutional care and still more would elect for a hospital "lying in" were they given the chance. The use of existing Rate-aided Maternity Centres at Corsham and Bradford-on-Avon entail lengthy and round about journeys for routine ante-natal examinations; tax the strength of the expectant mother, and her husband's wage: whilst any visits paid by the family after confinement have to be further paid for in time and money. The provision of further maternity beds in Devizes to serve the whole Devizes Area with a population of over 20,000 and 400 births annually is an urgent need.

### Hospitals.

A. *Voluntary*: The Devizes and District Hospital. In 1946 lessened calls for E.M.S. cases reduced the number of beds from 80 to 60 and out-patients from 1200 to 1050, but in no way lessened the demands of the local civilian population. The new Physiotherapy Department started work in November, 1945 and has worked to capacity ever since. During 1946 out-patient attendances, including visits to the above and X-Ray Departments increased by 2000 to nearly 15000. New out-patient accommodation is the Hospital's priority need. By the addition to the rota of Honorary Consultants of a second Physician, Dr. L. C. Hill, F R.C.P., an Ophthalmic Surgeon, Dr. A. Palin, F R.C.S., and a Radiologist, Dr. A. D. Stevens, D.M.R., a full range of specialist advice is now available to the local medical staff.

B. *Rate-aided*: Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital. A wide variety of infections were dealt with during the two years under review and over 40 cases admitted from adjacent military centres. During 1945, 28 cases of tuberculosis were admitted until September 21st. 1946 was, fortunately, a light year as shortage of nursing staff caused the closure of the Hospital between the 11th July and the 19th October, and again on the 20th December for the rest of the year. Unless the need for nurses is realised by the community and willing recruits forthcoming, institutions such as the above cannot keep going. The table below shows the character of the admissions and the Districts from whence they came:

**Cases admitted to the Devizes and Pewsey Joint Isolation Hospital during 1945 and 1946.**

Diseases	Borough of Devizes		Devizes Rural D.		Pewsey Rural D.		Other Districts		Military Cases		
	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946	
Scarlet Fever	...	28	5	14	9	7	5	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	12	—	5	—	2	—	1	—	4	1
Whooping Cough	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rubella	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Vincent's Angina	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Mumps	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
Anterior-Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia and Influenza	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Tonsillitis	...	3	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	6	2
Observation	...	2	1	2	1	2	—	1	—	2	4
Chickenpox	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pemphigus	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The immunisation of infants and children against diphtheria is now carried out by the County Council Public Health Department at local centres. The following tables give the numbers of children immunised in relation to the child population:



**DEVIZES BOROUGH.****Immunisation in relation to child Population.**

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31.12.45 i.e. Born in Year ..	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 to 9 1936—1940	10 to 14 1931—1935	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	40	62	85	87	494	509	1277
Estimated mid-year population 1945	593					1090		1683

Age at 31.12.46 i.e. Born in Year ..	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 to 9 1937—1941	10 to 14 1932—1936	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	45	66	69	89	495	477	1241
Estimated mid-year population 1946	602					1050		1652

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Water Supply.**

During 1945 supplies were curtailed from May to September owing to drought. The additional source of supply developed on the site of the temporary boreholes at Bourton was completed and the new pumping station with a 30 in. bore opened in June. The total water pumped during the year (January to December) was over 200 million gallons, nearly a quarter of which came from Bourton.

During 1946 mains were laid to the new Housing Estates at Forty Acres and Longcroft. The total supply pumped was (January to December) 171 million gallons of which over 60 millions of gallons of it came from Bourton: the decrease was due to lessened demand from the military.

The undertaking is now in a position to supply water freely to the adjoining Rural District over and above the quantity that authority already uses.

			1945	1946
Rainfall on Catchment Area	...	...	27.33 ins.	25.05 ins.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**

No major work undertaken in 1945.

In 1946 at the main works two disused contact beds were cleaned out and converted into humus tanks. The main works are appreciably overloaded and the subsidiary works at Breachfield grossly so. The effluent from the latter causes nuisance from time to time in the proximity of the Mental Hospital.

**Housing.**

New building has indeed been slow in getting under way. During 1945 advanced preparation of site at Forty Acres for nearly 200 houses begun by the local authority. Also Longcroft Estate being developed by private enterprise, and licenses for private building issued. No houses were completed during 1945.



Early in 1946, 12 three-bedroomed houses were commenced by the local authority but none were completed by the 31st December. 20 aluminium prefabricated houses were erected and occupied on the Hillworth Estate by the autumn.

The position of housing being undertaken by private enterprise at the 31st December, 1946, being:—

Total licenses issued	...	...	...	47
Under Construction	...	...	...	8
Completed	...	...	...	16

During the two years under review no action has been possible to eliminate unfit houses, and little to lessen overcrowding. In December, 1946, the number of applicants to the local authority for new houses was close on 600, over 400 being residents in the Borough, the remainder from the Rural District where scores of workers in the Borough are now living. Of the total over 350 were from lodgers and sub-tenants which indicate the number still without a home of their own and thus having priority claims on new accommodation. Hence the start of slum clearance so badly needed is not yet possible.

### Public Cleansing.

The tip at Nursteed is still in use. A motor refuse collection vehicle has replaced the horse drawn one.

### Shops.

No official action taken during the year.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There was no cause for action.

### Infectious Disease Notifications.

					1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	31	16
Measles	...	...	...	...	254	10
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	9	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	6	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1

There were no notifications of diphtheria during the two years under review and no deaths from diphtheria were notified.

### Tuberculosis.

(A) Notifications:		1945				1946			
Age Group		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—10		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25		1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35		—	1	—	1	2	2	—	—
35—45		—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—65		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 65		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		1	1	—	1	3	3	—	—

## (B) Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Age Group	1945				1946			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—

## Sanitary Inspector's Report.

*Note by Medical Officer of Health.*

No detailed Sanitary Inspector's reports can be rendered as they were only here for just over a quarter of the period under review, and barely had time to find their way about before they left. Inspectors, when obtained, are unlikely to stay unless the local authority takes steps to house them. Occasional abatement of nuisances and urgent repairs to houses were carried out by the Borough Surveyor when no Sanitary Inspector was available.

*Public Health Department,  
St. John Street, Devizes*

4th July, 1947.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the report on work carried out by me from the date I took office on the 1st November until the 31st December, 1946.

### Summary of Inspections.

Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	4
Houses inspected without recording	...	...	...	...	...	23
Houses and premises re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories, workshops and work-places visited	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	87
Disinfections and disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	28
Total						179

### Housing.

A. (i) Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	27
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	31
(ii) Houses included in sub-head (i) above which were recorded in accordance with Regulations	...	...	4
Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	8
B. (iii) Number of houses which were found to be unfit for habitation	...	...	24

In view of the difficulty prevailing relative to the shortage of building material and labour it was impossible to remedy defects other than those of an urgent character. One Corporate property was however, closed on account of its being unsafe and the family rehoused in the first new post-war permanent house.



## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	36	2	nil	nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 .. .. .	2	6	1	1	nil	2
(b) Others .. .. .	3	nil	nil	nil	nil	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	4	nil	nil	nil	nil	4
TOTAL .. .. .		42	3	1	nil	

### 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	5	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	5
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	6	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .	7	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	7
Inadequate ventilation .. .. .	8	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	9	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient .. .. .	10	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	11	2	1	nil	nil	nil	11
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	12	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) .. .. .	13	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	13
TOTAL .. .. .	60	2	1	nil	nil	nil	60

### Milk and Dairy.

Total number of cow-keepers and dairymen on registers	...	...	...	13
Total number of inspections made	...	...	...	1
Defects found...	...	...	...	—

No licenses for pasteurisation issued during the year.

**Food Inspection.**

(a) Meat: there is no slaughtering establishment in the district, all meat being killed in Chippenham.

(b) Other Foods: regular inspections of shops, markets and warehouses are made and the following foods were found to be unfit for human consumption and were surrendered and destroyed.

**1. Food in Butchers' Shops.**

	1945	1946
Beef ... ..	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	—
Offals ... ..	—	15 lbs.
Bacon ... ..	19 lbs.	—

**2. Other Foods.**

Canned Meats...	106 tins	108 tins
Canned milk ...	251 „	428 „
Canned Fish ...	254 „	190 „
Baked Beans in Sauce	83 „	86 „
Canned Vegetables	32 „	79 „
Canned Soups	11 „	6 „
Canned Fruit ...	— „	9 „
Canned Tomatoes	— „	3 „
Meat and Vegetables	— „	14 „
Pate de fois gras	— „	4 „
Spaghetti ...	— „	2 „
Meat Paste ...	— jars	8 jars
Pickles ...	— „	1 „
Breakfast Cereals	1 pkts.	10 pkts.
Soups ... ..	21 „	— „
Cake and Pudding Mixtures	— lbs.	4 lbs.
Dried Fruit ...	472 „	282 „
Chocolate, etc.	14 „	— „
Cheese ... ..	10 „	— „
Haricot Beans	162 „	— „
Dried Peas ... ..	303 „	— „
Preserves ...	18 „	24 „
Tea ... ..	— „	36 „
Butter and Margarine	— „	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Oatmeal ... ..	— „	28 „
Sugar ... ..	1300 „	28 „
Toasted Bread crumbs	— „	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ „

It will be appreciated that the foregoing list includes foods condemned by other inspectors including the Medical Officer of Health.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. M. JOLLIFFE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*